

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending.

Claims 1, 8, 10 and 18 are amended.

Claims 2, 6-7, 11-12, 15 and 19 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13-14 and 16-18 are now pending.

Amended Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to restrict to sewage sludge (claim 2);

To specify that the thickening in step ii.) occurs with the release of water. Support found on page 4, lines 25-26.

That the first flocculant is a cationic acrylamide. See examples on page 13, in particular Polymer A.

That the second flocculant is defined as a polymer of 50 to 100 % by weight methyl chloride quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl aminoethyl (meth)acrylate and 0 to 50 % by weight acrylamide and the molecular weight of the first and second flocculants is at least 1,000,000. Support found on page 9, lines 10-16 and page 6 line 21.

Claim 8 has been amended to define the second flocculant more narrowly. Support is found on page 8, line 19.

Claims 10 has been amended to make consistent with claim 1.

Claim 18 deletes the term "conventional".

No new matter is added.

Applicants submit that the claims as they now stand reflect the showing within the application and could not have been derived from the prior art cited.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation to recapture the broader claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13-14 and 16-18 is respectfully solicited in light of the amendments *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13-14 and 16-18 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

/Shiela A. Loggins/

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